



IWAS WHEELCHAIR FENCING

RULES FOR COMPETITION

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BOOK 4: CLASSIFICATION RULES

Version: 12th November 2016



IWAS WHEELCHAIR FENCING ATHLETE CLASSIFICATION CODE

Rules, Policies and Procedures for Athlete Classification

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PURPOSE AND ORGANISATION OF THESE RULES

Purpose

These Classification Rules (referred to generally as "the Rules") provide a framework within which the process of "Classification" may take place. The term "Classification" refers to a structure for Competition the aim of which is to ensure that an Athlete's Impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure that Athletes compete equitably with each other. The purpose of Classification is to minimise the impact of eligible Impairment types on the outcome of competition, so that Athletes who succeed in competition are those with best anthropometry, physiology and psychology and who have enhanced them to best effect.

Organisation

Articles

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| Article One | Article One explains that these Rules apply to persons who compete or are otherwise involved in the sport of Wheelchair Fencing, and how the Rules should be interpreted. |
| Article Two | Article Two explains that qualified personnel referred to in these Rules as "Classifiers" conduct Athlete Evaluation, with other key "Classification Personnel" being involved. |
| Article Three | Article Three explains how Classifiers will conduct Athlete Evaluation as part of a Classification Panel. |
| Article Four | Article Four explains that the process of Classification is carried out by way of Athlete Evaluation under these Rules, and details the specific processes and protocols to be followed during Athlete Evaluation. |
| Article Five | Article Five explains that Classification is undertaken so that Athletes can be designated a Sport Class (which groups Athletes together in Competition) and allocated a Sport Class Status (which indicates when Athletes should be evaluated and how their Sport Class may be challenged). |
| Article Six | Article Six explains that one outcome of Athlete Evaluation may be that an Athlete is found not to be eligible to compete in the sport of Wheelchair Fencing, and the implications that arise if this is the case. |
| Article Seven | Article Seven explains that an Athlete or other party may dispute the allocation of a Sport Class, and the process by which these disputes should be resolved. |
| Article Eight | Article Eight explains that the procedure by which a Sport Class is allocated is subject to a limited form of challenge, and how these challenges should be made. |
| Article Nine | Article Nine explains that if an Athlete or other party attempts to subvert the Athlete Evaluation process, there will be consequences. |
| Glossary | The Glossary to these Rules contains a list of the defined terms used in these Rules. |



Appendices

Appendix One Appendix One deals with Sport Classes, and sets out the Minimum Disability Criteria and assessment methodologies that apply in order for an Athlete with Physical Impairment to be eligible to compete in the sport of Wheelchair Fencing.

1 Article One - Scope and Application

- 1.1 These Rules are an integral part of the Wheelchair Fencing Rules and Regulations and are intended to implement the provisions of the IPC Classification Code for the sport of Wheelchair Fencing.
- 1.2 These Rules shall apply to -
 - 1.2.1 All Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/or licensed with Wheelchair Fencing as defined in the Wheelchair Fencing Rules and Regulations
 - 1.2.2 All Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel participating in such capacity in Events and Competitions recognised by Wheelchair Fencing or any of its members or affiliate organisations or licensees;
- 1.3 It is the personal responsibility of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and Classification Personnel to acquaint themselves with all of the requirements of these Rules, the IPC Classification Code (see IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3) and the other sections of the IPC Handbook that apply to Classification, including the IPC Position Statement on Background and Scientific Rationale for Classification in Paralympic Sport (see IPC Handbook. Section 2, Chapter 4.4).

International Classification

- 1.4 Athlete Evaluation that is conducted in full compliance with these Rules is referred to as International Classification. Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee (IW FEC) will only recognize Sport Class and Sport Class Status if allocated by way of International Classification.
- 1.5 Wheelchair Fencing will provide Athletes with an opportunity to undertake International Classification by appointing Classifiers certified pursuant to Article Two to conduct Athlete Evaluation at Recognised Competitions, and by providing reasonable notice of such International Classification opportunities to Athletes and National Bodies.
- 1.6 An Athlete will only be permitted to undergo International Classification if he or she:
 - 1.6.1 Is registered and/or licensed with Wheelchair Fencing pursuant to the relevant provisions in the Wheelchair Fencing Rules and Regulations, and
 - 1.6.2 Has been entered in a Recognised Competition where International Classification is to take place.



Interpretation, Commencement and Amendment

- 1.7 These Rules shall be interpreted and applied at all times in a manner that is consistent with the IPC Classification Code.
- 1.8 These Rules shall come into full force and effect on the Effective Date as specified by Wheelchair Fencing.
- 1.9 Amendments to these Rules shall be approved and shall come into effect in the manner prescribed by Wheelchair Fencing. Wheelchair Fencing may at any time amend, update or otherwise alter the text, meaning and effect of the Appendices independently of these Rules.

2 Article Two - Classification Personnel

- 2.1 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Rules. This Article Two explains how Wheelchair Fencing Classification Personnel assist in the delivery of classification under these Rules.

Classification Personnel

- 2.2 Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee should appoint the following Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the administration, organisation and execution of classification for Wheelchair Fencing:

2.3 Head of Classification

- 2.3.1 The Head of Classification for Wheelchair Fencing will be appointed by Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee to be responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of all classification matters for Wheelchair Fencing.
- 2.3.2 Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee may delegate the role of Head of Classification to a nominated person or group of persons, such persons being identified publicly as such by Wheelchair Fencing.
- 2.3.3 The Head of Classification in conjunction with Wheelchair Fencing Management is responsible for appointing Classification Panel(s) that will conduct International Classification at Recognised Competitions.

2.4 Classifiers

- 2.4.1 A Classifier is a person authorised and certified by Wheelchair Fencing as being competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation. Wheelchair Fencing will specify the means by which it shall certify Classifiers.
- 2.4.2 Wheelchair Fencing Classifiers are required, as appropriate, to assist in the research, development and clarification of the Classification Rules and Sport Class profiles for Wheelchair Fencing; participate in Classifier workshops arranged by Wheelchair Fencing and/or IWAS and attend such Classifier training as requested by Wheelchair Fencing.
- 2.4.3 The Head of Classification may be appointed as Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.

2.5 Chief Classifiers

- 2.5.1 A Chief Classifier is a Classifier who is appointed by Wheelchair Fencing to act as the senior Classifier present at a specific Wheelchair Fencing Recognised Competition.
- 2.5.2 A Chief Classifier is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of classification matters at a Competition. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by Wheelchair Fencing to do the following:

- 2.5.2.1 Identify those Athletes who will be competing at that Competition who will require Athlete Evaluation;

- 2.5.2.2 Supervise Classifiers to ensure that the Rules are applied appropriately during a specific Competition;
 - 2.5.2.3 Manage the Protest process as required by Article Seven.
 - 2.5.2.4 Liaise with the relevant Competition organiser to ensure that all travel, accommodation and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Competition.
- 2.6 Trainee Classifiers
- 2.6.1 Wheelchair Fencing Classification Committee may appoint Trainee Classifiers in order that they may be certified as a Classifier.
 - 2.6.2 A Trainee Classifier may actively participate in or observe Athlete Evaluation under supervision of a Classification Panel in order to develop the necessary competencies and proficiencies so as to be certified by Wheelchair Fencing as a Classifier. They will be required to perform any such other duties as Wheelchair Fencing requires.

Classifier Competencies, Qualifications and Responsibilities

- 2.7 Wheelchair Fencing Classification Committee certifies Classifiers who have abilities and qualifications relevant to conduct Athlete Evaluation. All classifiers must undergo wheelchair fencing classification training. The wheelchair fencing certification training programme will provide a structure to allow progression from unaccredited personnel up to International Accreditation Level.
- 2.8 To be considered for certification as a Wheelchair Fencing Classifier, Wheelchair Fencing requires Classifiers to be a certified health professional, e.g. physicians and physiotherapists, or persons with a technical knowledge of the sport who are no longer actively involved in an international level with a national team. e.g. coaches or retired international athletes.
- 2.9 All Classification Personnel must comply with the standards of behaviour mandated in the IWAS Code of Ethics and the IWAS Classifier Code of Conduct. If any Classification Personnel is found to have breached the terms of either the IWAS Code of Ethics or the IWAS Classifier Code of Conduct, Wheelchair Fencing will have sole discretion to withdraw any applicable certification or authorisation. Wheelchair Fencing may also make such recommendations as it sees fit to IPC and any other relevant bodies as regards any certification held by the relevant Classification Personnel to act as Classification Personnel in respect of other sports.

3 Article Three - Classification Panels

3.1 A Classification Panel is a body that is appointed by Wheelchair Fencing to conduct Athlete Evaluation in accordance with these Rules.

A Classification Panel should be comprised of a minimum of two (2) International Classifiers. This panel should comprise of either two medical classifiers or one medical and one technical classifier. A panel cannot consist of two technical classifiers.

If the circumstances so require, the Head of Classification may designate that a Classification Panel may consist of one suitably accredited and qualified Classifier, who has been certified by Wheelchair Fencing to conduct Physical Assessment (see Article 2.7). A Classification Panel consisting of one Classifier may only allocate a Sport Class designated with Sport Class Status Review (R) (see Article 5.11.2 below).

3.2 Wheelchair Fencing and competition organisers will whenever possible ensure that at least two members of the Classification Panel are able to conduct Athlete Evaluation.

3.3 Classification Personnel should have no relationship with any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel present at a Competition or otherwise that might create any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest. Classification Personnel must disclose to Wheelchair Fencing any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest that may be relevant to their appointment as a member of any Classification Panel.

3.4 Wheelchair Fencing will wherever possible ensure that Classifiers who act as members of a Classification Panel at a Competition will not have any official responsibilities other than in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

3.5 A Classification Panel may seek third party expertise of any nature if it considers in its sole discretion that this would assist it in completing the process of Athlete Evaluation.

4 Article Four - Athlete Evaluation

- 4.1 Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is assessed by a Classification Panel in order that the Athlete may be allocated a sport Class and a Sport Class Status.
- 4.1.1 Prior to the athlete evaluation the National Federation is required to submit to IWAS an IWAS WF Medical Diagnostic form signed by the National Federation and an Athlete Evaluation consent form, signed by the athlete. These forms must be submitted at least 4 weeks prior to the competition at which the athlete will be put forward for classification.

Athlete Evaluation Process

- 4.2 The Athlete Evaluation process may encompass the following:
- 4.2.1 Physical Assessment: The Classification Panel should conduct a Physical Assessment of the Athlete, so as to establish that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that meets the relevant Minimum Disability Criteria; and/or
- 4.2.2 Technical Assessment: The Classification Panel should conduct a Technical Assessment of the Athlete which may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of the Athlete's ability to perform, in a non-competitive environment, the specific tasks and activities that are part of the sport in which the Athlete participates; specific skills during training practice and/or simulated sports conditions.
- 4.2.3 Observation Assessment: The Classification Panel should conduct an observational assessment of the athlete which will include, but is not limited to competition performance and training, in order to assist in the determination of the athletes' Sports Class.
- 4.3 The means by which Physical and Technical assessments are to be conducted are specified in the Appendices to these Rules.

Athlete Evaluation Requirements

- 4.4 The following requirements apply to Athlete Evaluation:
- 4.4.1 The Athlete and his or her National Body are jointly responsible for ensuring that the Athlete attends Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.4.2 Athlete Evaluation and its associated processes will be conducted in English. If the Athlete and/or the Athlete Support Personnel require an interpreter, the National Body will be responsible for arranging the attendance of an interpreter.
- 4.4.3 One person (in addition to any required interpreter) may accompany an Athlete during Athlete Evaluation. This person should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sporting history and must be a member of the Athlete's National Body or must be otherwise authorised in advance by the Chief Classifier to attend the Athlete's Athlete Evaluation.

- 4.4.4 The Athlete must accept the terms of the Wheelchair Fencing Evaluation Consent Form prior to participating in Athlete Evaluation. The Athlete must provide identification, such as a passport, ID Card, Wheelchair Fencing License or Accreditation that verifies the Athlete's identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel.
- 4.4.5 The Athlete must attend Athlete Evaluation with all sports equipment and attire used in competition.
- 4.4.6 The Athlete must attend Athlete Evaluation with all relevant medical documentation (in English or with a certified English translation), including but not limited to medical reports, medical records and diagnostic information, which relate to the Athlete's Impairment.
- 4.4.7 The Athlete must disclose either prior to, or at, Athlete Evaluation details of any medication used by the Athlete.
- 4.4.8 The Classification Panel may use video footage and/or any other records (including pre-existing video footage and/or records) to assist it in carrying out Athlete Evaluation. In addition, the Classification Panel may video-record any part of Athlete Evaluation if it considers that such recording is necessary to enable it to complete Athlete Evaluation. Any such recording will be used for the purposes of Athlete Evaluation only and may be used for research and education purposes with the Athlete's prior consent.
- 4.4.9 The Classification outcomes will be published at the Competition by the Chief Classifier or a person authorised by the Chief Classifier.

Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation

- 4.5 If an Athlete is required to attend Athlete Evaluation, but fails to do so, the Classification Panel will report the fact of the non-attendance to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend Athlete Evaluation, specify a revised time and date for Athlete Evaluation at the relevant Competition.
- 4.6 If the Athlete fails to attend Athlete Evaluation on this second occasion, or is, in view of the Chief Classifier, unable to provide a reasonable explanation of his or her non-attendance, the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

Suspension of Athlete Evaluation

- 4.7 A Classification Panel may suspend Athlete Evaluation in one or more of the following circumstances:
 - 4.7.1 if the Athlete fails to meet any of the requirements detailed in these Rules for attendance at Athlete Evaluation (see Article 4.4 above);
 - 4.7.2 if the Classification Panel considers that the use (or non-use) of any medication disclosed by the Athlete will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
 - 4.7.3 if an Athlete fails to produce sufficient medical documentation and the Classification Panel considers that the absence of such medical documentation will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;

- 4.7.4 if an Athlete has a health condition (of any nature or description) that limits or prohibits the Athlete from complying with requests made by the Classification Panel during the course of Athlete Evaluation, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner (e.g. pain);
 - 4.7.5 if an Athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given to him or her by a Classification Panel (or a Chief Classifier or the relevant Head of Classification) during the course of Athlete Evaluation to an extent that Classification Panel considers that this means it cannot conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner. Such behaviour shall be referred to as a case of non-cooperation. (see IPC Classification Code. Article 10);
 - 4.7.6 if an Athlete's presentation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with other information made available to the Classification Panel to the extent that the Classification Panel considers that this means it cannot conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner.
- 4.8 If a Classification Panel suspends an Athlete Evaluation the following steps will be taken:
- 4.8.1 the Classification Panel will explain the reason for the suspension to the Athlete and the Athlete's National Body and detail the remedial action that is required on the part of the Athlete.
 - 4.8.2 the Classification Panel will report the fact of the suspension to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier will specify a time and date for resumption of the Athlete Evaluation on the condition that the Athlete takes the remedial action specified by the Classification Panel.
- 4.9 If the Athlete attends Athlete Evaluation having taken the remedial action to the Classification Panel's satisfaction, the Classification Panel will attempt to complete the Athlete Evaluation and allocate a Sport Class and Sport Class Status. This procedure will be subject to the Classification Panel's right to further suspend Athlete Evaluation according to Article 4.7.
- 4.10 If the Athlete fails to take the remedial action required to the Classification Panel's satisfaction and within the time specified by the Chief Classifier, the Classification Panel will terminate the Athlete Evaluation and Wheelchair Fencing will designate the Athlete as being "Classification Not Completed" (CNC) within the Classification Master List for Wheelchair Fencing. This designation will preclude the Athlete from competing at any Competition until Athlete Evaluation is completed. Wheelchair Fencing will stipulate from time to time how this designation impacts on performance recognition.
- 4.11 The Athlete and/or Athlete Support Personnel may be subject to further investigation regarding Intentional Misrepresentation pursuant to Article Nine.

5 Article Five - Sport Class and Sport Class Status

- 5.1 A Sport Class is a sporting competition category that is allocated to an Athlete following Athlete Evaluation. It is allocated based on the existence of an Eligible Impairment and compliance with the Minimum Disability Criteria, and the degree to which Impairment impacts upon sport performance.

Sport Class

- 5.2 A Sport Class will be allocated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel following Athlete Evaluation. A Sport Class cannot be allocated to an Athlete in any other circumstances.
- 5.3 The decision of the Classification Panel to allocate a Sport Class is final and subject to challenge only as prescribed in Article Seven and Article Eight of these Rules.
- 5.4 A Sport Class that enables an Athlete to compete in the sport of Wheelchair Fencing will be allocated if that Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that complies with the Minimum Disability Criteria set by Wheelchair Fencing. The requirements regarding Eligible Impairment and Minimum Disability Criteria are detailed in the Appendices to these Rules.
- 5.5 If an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment or has an Eligible Impairment that does not comply with the Minimal Disability Criteria, he or she will not be eligible to compete within the sport of Wheelchair Fencing. If an Athlete is not eligible to compete he or she will be allocated Sport Class "Not Eligible" (see Article Six).
- 5.6 The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the Sport Class designations as explained in the Appendices to these Rules.

Sport Class Status

- 5.7 An Athlete's Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation again in the future, and whether (and by what party) the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to challenge by way of Protest as prescribed in Article Seven of these Rules.
- 5.8 The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete will be one of the following:
- Sport Class New (N)
 - Sport Class Review (R)
 - Sport Class Confirmed (C)
- 5.9 Athletes with Sport Class Status New (N)
- 5.9.1 An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status New (N) if a National Body has allocated an Entry Sport Class to him or her, and the Athlete has not completed International Classification yet.

5.9.2 An Athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Status New (N) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any IWFEF Recognised Competition where Classification is offered.

5.10 Athletes with Sport Class Status Review (R)

5.10.1 A Classification Panel will designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) if he or she has completed Athlete Evaluation and been allocated a Sport Class, but the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required before the Athlete can be designated as Sport Class Confirmed (C). This may be, for a range of reasons, for example, because the Athlete has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment(s), or, given his or her age, has Impairment(s) that may not have stabilised. The Head of the Classification Committee has the option to designate the athlete with a Sports Class Status Review (R), if all members of the Classification Panel are of the same nationality as the athlete being evaluated.

5.10.2 Any Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be designated with Sport Class Review (R) if that Athlete is entitled to a further Athlete Evaluation under these Rules (see Article Six).

5.10.3 An Athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Status Review (R) shall have their review date specified by the classification panel.

Athletes must complete their Athlete Evaluation four weeks prior to competing at the recognised Competition where they will be re-evaluated, save where the provisions in these Rules relating to the Fixed Review Date apply (see Articles 5.12-15).

5.10.4 The Sport Class of any Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) may be subject to Protest by a National Body as prescribed in Article Seven of these Rules.

5.11 Athletes with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C)

5.11.1 A Classification Panel will designate an Athlete with Sport Class Confirmed (C) if he or she has completed Athlete Evaluation and has been allocated a Sport Class, and the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Impairment and/or Activity Limitations are sufficiently stable so that the Athlete can be allocated Sport Class Status Confirmed.

5.11.2 Sport Class Status Confirmed may not be allocated if the Classification Panel consists of one Classifier only.

5.11.3 Any Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be designated with Sport Class Confirmed (C) if that Athlete is not entitled to a further Athlete Evaluation under these Rules (see Article Six).

5.11.4 An Athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo Athlete Evaluation.

5.11.5 The Sport Class of any Athlete who enters a Competition with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) may be subject to Protest by the Chief Classifier only, pursuant to the provisions in Articles 7.24-7.26 of these Rules relating to Protests under Exceptional Circumstances.

Fixed Review Date

- 5.12 A Classification Panel that allocates Sport Class Status Review may also, if it considers it appropriate to do so nominate a "Fixed Review Date".
- 5.13 If a Fixed Review Date is set in this manner, then
 - 5.13.1 the Athlete will not be required to attend Athlete Evaluation at any competition prior to the Fixed Review Date; and
 - 5.13.2 The Athlete will retain the Sport Class assigned to that Athlete and be permitted to compete with that Sport Class.
- 5.14 The Athlete may, at his or her own request, attend Athlete Evaluation before the Fixed Review Date pursuant to the Medical Review Process described in these Rules (see Articles 5.19-5.24).
- 5.15 The Fixed Review Date will be the first day of the Competition Season (1 January) for Wheelchair Fencing indicated by the Classification Panel or an alternative date set by the Classification Panel.

Changes to Sport Class criteria

- 5.16 If Wheelchair Fencing changes any Sport Class criteria and/or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then -
 - 5.16.1 Wheelchair Fencing may re-assign any Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed with Sport Class Status Review in order for the Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation; or
 - 5.16.2 Wheelchair Fencing may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete in order for the Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation at the earliest available opportunity; and
- 5.17 In both instances the relevant National Body shall be informed as soon as is practicable.

Errors regarding Sport Class Status

- 5.18 If the Head of Classification believes on reasonable grounds that an Athlete has been designated with a Sport Class Status in manifest error and/or clear breach of these Rules, he or she shall
 - 5.18.1 advise the Athlete and the relevant National Body or Bodies as to the error or breach that has taken place with a brief statement of the reasons for that belief; and
 - 5.18.2 immediately amend the Athlete's Sport Class Status, and advise the Athlete and the relevant National Body or Bodies. Wheelchair Fencing will make the appropriate amendment to the Classification Master List.

Medical Review: Application to undergo Athlete Evaluation

- 5.19 An Athlete who has reason to believe that his or her Impairment and Activity Limitations are no longer consistent with the profile for his or her Sport Class should have his or her Sport Class reviewed. The means by which this can take place is referred to in these Rules as "the Medical Review Process" and the means by which a request for such review is referred to as "a Medical Review Request".
- 5.20 A National Body must make a Medical Review Request. A Medical Review Request cannot be made by an Athlete.
- 5.21 A Medical Review Request may be made if an Athlete has been allocated:
- 5.21.1 A Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C), or
 - 5.21.2 A Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review (R), if the Athlete has been allocated a Fixed Review Date.
- 5.22 A Medical Review Request must be made by completing the IWFEF Medical Review Request Form and by following its instructions. The Athlete and his or her NPC must ensure that the Medical Review Request abides by the following provisions:
- 5.22.1 it must explain that the Athlete's relevant Impairment has changed since the last Athlete Evaluation to an extent that the Athlete's Sport Class might not be accurate anymore;
 - 5.22.2 it must be completed by an appropriately qualified health professional and include all relevant supporting documentation in English or with a certified English translation;
 - 5.22.3 a non-refundable fee must be paid as specified on the Medical Review Form.
- 5.23 Each Medical Review Request will be assessed by Wheelchair Fencing HQ to ensure that all requisite information, documentation and fee have been provided. Once the Medical Review Request is complete, the Head of Classification will, in conjunction with such third parties as he or she considers appropriate, decide whether or not the Medical Review Request should be upheld.
- 5.24 If the Medical Review Request is upheld the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended from Confirmed to Review; or the Athlete's Fixed Review Date will be set aside; and the Athlete will be requested to undertake Athlete Evaluation at the next available opportunity.

6 Article Six - Rules Regarding Athletes who are Not Eligible

- 6.1 An Athlete must have an Eligible Impairment, and that Eligible Impairment must comply with the Minimal Disability Criteria set by Wheelchair Fencing in order to be eligible to compete. If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete does not have such Eligible Impairment, and/or that Eligible Impairment does not comply with the Minimal Disability Criteria, that Athlete will not be eligible to compete.
- 6.2 If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete is not eligible to compete the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 6.3 If a Classification Panel allocates an Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) the Athlete will be required to undergo a second Athlete Evaluation by a second separate Classification Panel either at that Competition or as soon as practicable thereafter. Pending this second assessment the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.
- 6.4 If there is no opportunity for a separate Athlete Evaluation to be undertaken at that Competition, Wheelchair Fencing will take all reasonable steps to ensure the second Athlete Evaluation is undertaken at the earliest opportunity.
- 6.5 If a second Classification Panel confirms that the Athlete is not eligible the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at that Competition or any future Competitions. The Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) with Sport Class Status Confirmed and there is no further right to Protest unless made under Exceptional Circumstances pursuant to Articles 7.24-7.26.
- 6.6 A National Body may request that an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) undertakes Athlete Evaluation, but only by way of a Medical Review Request as defined in these Rules.
- 6.7 While an Athlete with Sport Class NE will be not eligible to compete within the sport of Wheelchair Fencing, it will not affect his or her ability to compete in other Para-sports, subject to their rules on Classification.
- 6.8 If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible, this does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in the sport of Wheelchair Fencing.

7 Article Seven - Protests

- 7.1 The term "Protest" used in these Rules refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to the allocation of a Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.
- 7.2 A National Body may make a Protest in respect of a Sport Class of any Athlete who entered the relevant Competition where Classification is offered with either Sport Class Status New (N) or Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 7.3 The decision that is the subject of the Protest is referred to in this part of the Rules as "the Protested Decision", and the Athlete in respect of whose Sport Class the Protest is made is referred to as "the Protested Athlete".
- 7.4 No National Body may make a Protest in respect of any Athlete who entered the relevant Competition with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).
- 7.5 The Chief Classifier for the relevant Competition may make a Protest in respect of any Athlete regardless of their Sport Class Status pursuant to the provisions contained in these Rules regarding Protests under Exceptional Circumstances (see Articles 7.24-7.26).
- 7.6 An Athlete's Sport Class may only be protested once in any individual Competition, unless an additional Protest is made pursuant to the provisions concerning Protests made in Exceptional Circumstances.
- 7.7 The National Body making a Protest is responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are observed.

Protests submissions

- 7.8 A Protest may only be submitted by a National Body; an Athlete cannot submit a Protest.
- 7.9 The Chief Classifier, or a person designated by Wheelchair Fencing for the relevant Competition, will be the person authorised to receive Protests on behalf of Wheelchair Fencing.
- 7.10 If a Classification decision is published during the Classification Evaluation Period, the National Body must make a Protest within one (1) hour of the Classification decision being published.
- 7.11 Protests must be made by way of a designated Protest Form that will be made available by Wheelchair Fencing at the relevant Competition. The Protest Form will prescribe certain information and documentation that must be submitted with the Protest form. This will include the following:
- 7.11.1 Name, Nation and Sport of the Athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;
 - 7.11.2 The details of the Protested Decision;
 - 7.11.3 An explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the National Body believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
 - 7.11.4 All documents and other evidence referred to in the Protest;
 - 7.11.5 The signature of the authorised National Body; and
 - 7.11.6 A Protest Fee as specified on the Protest Form.

- 7.12 Upon receipt of the Protest Form the Chief Classifier will conduct a review of the Protest submission. If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is not made bona fide or is based on mere assertion without credible supporting evidence and/or the Protest submission is otherwise not in compliance with these Rules, the Chief Classifier shall decline the protest and notify all relevant parties. In such cases the Chief Classifier shall provide a written explanation to the National Body as soon as is practicable. The Protest fee will be retained by Wheelchair Fencing.
- 7.13 If the Chief Classifier declines a Protest, the National Body may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier in respect of the Protest. The time frames for submitting a Protest shall remain the same in such circumstances. If a National Body resubmits a Protest, all protest procedure requirements will apply. A second Protest fee must be paid.

Resolving a Protest

- 7.14 If the Protest is accepted, the Chief Classifier shall appoint a Classification Panel to conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Athlete. This Classification Panel is referred to as a "Protest Panel".
- 7.15 A Protest Panel should comprise, at a minimum, the same number of Classifiers as those comprised in the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision. Only if practicable given all the circumstances of the Competition, the Protest Panel should comprise Classifiers of equal or greater level of experience and/or certification as comprised the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision.
- 7.16 The Protest Panel must not include any person who was a Member of the Classification Panel that made the Protest Decision. Further, it should not include any person who has been a Member of any Classification Panel that has conducted any Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of twelve (12) months prior to the date of the Protest Decision.
- 7.17 Wheelchair Fencing will supply all documentation submitted with the Protest Form to the Protest Panel. The Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 7.18 The Protest Panel will conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete according to the provisions concerning Athlete Evaluation in these Rules.
- 7.19 The Protest Panel may make enquires of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision and the Chief Classifier, if such enquiries will enable the Protest Panel to complete Athlete Evaluation in a fair and transparent manner. In addition, it may seek medical, sport, technical or scientific expertise in its conduct of Athlete Evaluation.
- 7.20 The Protest Panel will conclude Athlete Evaluation and, if appropriate, allocate a Sport Class. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest Panel's decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.
- 7.21 If the Protest is upheld and the Sport Class of the Athlete is changed by the Protest Panel, the Protest Fee will be refunded to the National Body. If the Protest is not

upheld and if the Sport Class of the Athlete is not changed by the Protest Panel, the Protest fee will be retained by Wheelchair Fencing.

- 7.22 The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest. According to Article 6.3, the Athlete is given the opportunity to a re-assessment if the Sport Class allocated by the Protest Panel is Not Eligible.
- 7.23 The consequences of an Athlete changing Sport Class after the resolution of a Protest during Competition on medals and results are detailed in the Model of Best Practice on Sport Class Changes following First Appearance

Protests under Exceptional Circumstances

- 7.24 A Protest in Exceptional Circumstances may be made in respect of an Athlete if the Chief Classifier believes that because of exceptional circumstances, the Athlete should undertake Athlete Evaluation in order that his or her Sport Class may be reviewed.
- 7.25 Examples of exceptional circumstances that may arise that may warrant an Athlete participating in Athlete Evaluation include, but are not limited to:
 - 7.25.1 An obvious and permanent change in the degree of Impairment of an Athlete;
 - 7.25.2 An Athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during Competition which does not reflect the Athlete's current Sport Class;
 - 7.25.3 An error made by a Classification Panel which has led to the Athlete being allocated a Sport Class which is not in keeping with the Athlete's ability; or
 - 7.25.4 Sport Class allocation criteria having changed since the Athlete's most recent evaluation.
- 7.26 The procedure for the making of a Protest in Exceptional Circumstances shall be as follows:
 - 7.26.1 The Chief Classifier shall advise the Athlete and relevant National Body that a Protest is being made in Exceptional Circumstances;
 - 7.26.2 The Chief Classifier will provide a written summary of the reasons for the making of the Protest, which at a minimum shall explain why the Chief Classifier believes that the Athlete's Sport Class appears to be inconsistent with the Athlete's perceived Impairment(s) and/or Activity Limitation(s) and/or with these Rules;
 - 7.26.3 The Athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended to Review (R) with immediate effect;
 - 7.26.4 The process for making such a Protest shall be the same as that stated in these Rules in respect of Protests made by National Bodies save that the Chief Classifier is not required to pay a Protest fee.

Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available

- 7.27 If a Protest is made and accepted at a Competition, but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition (because, for example, it is not possible to form an appropriately constituted Protest Panel), the following provisions will apply:
- 7.27.1 If the Athlete has been allocated Sport Class Status Confirmed (C), that will be amended to Sport Class Status Review (R);
 - 7.27.2 The Athlete will be permitted (or required) to compete in his or her current Sport Class, pending the resolution of the Protest;
 - 7.27.3 Wheelchair Fencing will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity, for example, at the next Competition that the Athlete intends competing at and where International Classification is offered.

8 Article Eight - Appeals

- 8.1 An Appeal is a formal objection to the manner in which Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.
- 8.2 If an Athlete believes that an unfair decision has been made pursuant to these Rules, he or she may apply to have that decision set aside following the Appeal procedure.
- 8.3 A decision will be considered unfair, if it has been made in contravention of the procedures set out in these Rules at Article 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of these Rules; and there is some manifest unfairness associated with the decision such that it should be set aside.
- 8.4 To avoid problems with prejudice and independence of the Appeal Body for decisions on appeals, IWF agrees that IWAS Appeal Body may act as the Appeal Body for IWF. Therefore, appeals must follow IWAS Regulations concerning appeals.
- 8.5 The outcome of an Appeal will be that either the relevant decision is upheld, or is set aside. An Appeal decision cannot amend a Sport Class or Sport Class Status.
- 8.6 Wheelchair Fencing has designated the International Paralympic Committee Board of Appeal on Classification (BAC) to act as the hearing body for all Appeals and all Athletes submitting to Athlete Evaluation during Paralympic Games, irrevocably submit to the exclusive, final and binding jurisdiction of the BAC.
- 8.7 The detailed rules of procedure in respect of Appeals during Paralympic Games are provided by the IPC in the form of the IPC BAC Bylaws (see IPC Handbook, Section 1, Chapter 2.8). These Rules incorporate the IPC BAC Bylaws and any Appeal made under these Rules must be made pursuant to the IPC BAC Bylaws.

9 Article Nine — Intentional Misrepresentation

- 9.1 Intentional Misrepresentation is a violation of these Rules, and will be investigated and potentially sanctioned as provided for in the IPC Intentional Misrepresentation Rules (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3).

Misrepresentation during Athlete Evaluation

- 9.2 An Athlete who intentionally misrepresents his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Impairment to a Classification Panel in the course of Athlete Evaluation with the intention of deceiving or misleading that Classification Panel shall be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

Misrepresentation after Allocation of Confirmed Sport Class

- 9.3 If following the allocation of a Sport Class an Athlete undertakes any form of corrective treatment (a "medical intervention"), and the Athlete (or any other Participant) knows (or should know) that the medical intervention was intended to result in improved sport performance, the Athlete must provide details of that medical intervention to Wheelchair Fencing at the earliest reasonable opportunity. If the Athlete's Sport Class is later changed because the Athlete's sporting performance has improved as a result of (in whole or in part) that medical intervention, but the Athlete failed to disclose that medical intervention to Wheelchair Fencing, the Athlete will be charged with Intentional Misrepresentation.

Assisting Intentional Misrepresentation

- 9.4 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who knowingly assists, covers up or is any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation shall themselves be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

10 Glossary of Defined Terms

Term	Definition
Activity Limitation	Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities.
Appeal	A formal objection to the manner in which Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.
Athlete	Any person who participates in the sport of Wheelchair Fencing at either International Level (as defined by Wheelchair Fencing) or National Level (as defined by a National Body) and any other additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's National Body.
Athlete Evaluation	The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with these Rules.
Athlete Support Personnel	Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or paramedical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.
Classification	A structure for Competition to ensure that an Athlete's Impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure that the Athlete competes equitably with other Athletes.
Classification Evaluation Period	The timeframe prior to the commencement of Events at a Competition within which Physical and Technical Assessment typically takes place.
Classification Master List	The list, made available by Wheelchair Fencing that identifies the Athletes that participated in International Classification.
Classification Panel	A group of Classifiers appointed by Wheelchair Fencing to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Rules.
Classification Personnel	All persons involved in or associated with the process of Athlete Evaluation, including the Head of Classification, Classifiers, Chief Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers.
Classifier	A person authorised by Wheelchair Fencing to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.
Competition	A series of individual Events conducted together under the jurisdiction of Wheelchair Fencing.
Competition Season	The timeframe within which Competitions are held for a particular sport.
Conflict of Interest	A conflict of interest will arise where a pre-existing personal or professional relationship gives rise to the possibility of that relationship affecting the Classifier's ability to make an objective decision or assessment.
Effective Date	The date upon which these Rules come into force.
Eligible Impairment	An Eligible Impairment is an Impairment the existence of which is a prerequisite for an Athlete to meet the Minimum Disability Criteria for the sport of Wheelchair Fencing.
Entry Sport Class	A Sport Class allocated to an Athlete by a National Body prior to a Wheelchair Fencing Competition to indicate the Sport Class with which the Athlete intends to compete. An Entry Sport Class is an estimate and has no binding effect

	upon either the Athlete or the body responsible for organising and managing the relevant Competition.
Event	A sub-set of a Competition that requires specific technical and sporting skills.
Fixed Review Date	A date prior to which an Athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Status Review (R) will not be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation, regardless of whether or not that Athlete competes at any Competition. Unless otherwise specified by the Classification Panel, the Fixed Review Date is the first day of the Competition Season of Wheelchair Fencing, i.e. 1 January.
Head of Classification	A Classifier responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for Wheelchair Fencing.
Impairment	Problems in body function or structure such as a significant deviation or loss.
Intellectual Impairment	A type of Impairment, which is defined as a limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills. This impairment originates before the age of 18.
International Classification	Athlete Evaluation that is conducted in full compliance with these Rules.
IPC	International Paralympic Committee
IPC Classification Code	The IPC Classification Code 2007 and accompanying International Standards and any subsequent version or versions of the same.
IPC Classifier Code of Conduct	A set of rules to outline the responsibilities, to guide behaviour and decisions and to identify best practice for an individual Classifier, which is part of the IPC Classification Code International Standard of Classifier Training.
IPC Code of Ethics	The ethical standard that will be applied consistently within the Paralympic Movement, and will be applicable to all IPC sanctioned Events, Competitions and activities.
IPC Handbook	The IPC Handbook is the primary governance instrument for the IPC in its capacity as both an International Federation and the ruling body for the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games. All persons who are subject to the jurisdiction of the IPC are required to abide by its provisions.
Medical Intervention	Any intervention such as surgery, pharmacological intervention or other treatment, which affects the Athlete's Eligible Impairment.
Medical Review	The process by which an Athlete can apply to Wheelchair Fencing to undergo Athlete Evaluation, in order that the Athlete's Sport Class may be reviewed to ensure that the Athlete's Sport Class remains a fair allocation.
Minimum Disability Criteria	The standards set by Wheelchair Fencing in relation to the degree of Eligible Impairment that must be present in order that an Athlete is deemed to be eligible to compete in the sport of Wheelchair Fencing.
National Body	A team entity of which an Athlete is a member. Such an entity may be National Federation, National Paralympic Committee or other representative team body.
Not Eligible	Consequence of not meeting the eligibility criteria.
Observation Assessment	The means by which a Classification Panel may complete Athlete Evaluation, if it considers that the only fair way in which it can complete Athlete Evaluation is to observe the Athlete performing the specific skills associated with the sport of Wheelchair Fencing either prior to or during an Event.
Physical Assessment	The means by which a Classification Panel will determine whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment and whether that Eligible Impairment complies with the Minimum Disability Criteria.

Physical Impairment	A group of Eligible Impairments affecting an Athlete's biomechanical execution of sporting activities, comprising ataxia, athetosis, hypertonia, impaired muscle power, impaired range of movement, limb deficiency and leg length difference.
Protest	The procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.
Protest Panel	A Classification Panel formed to conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class, where that Sport Class is the subject of a Protest.
Recognised Competition	An umbrella term for Wheelchair Fencing Competitions, Wheelchair Fencing Sanctioned Competitions and Wheelchair Fencing Approved Competitions as defined in the Wheelchair Fencing Rules and Regulations.
Sport Class	A category defined by Wheelchair Fencing in which Athletes are categorised by reference to an Activity Limitation resulting from impairment.
Sport Class Status	A Category allocation to each Athlete to indicate evaluation requirements and Protest opportunities.
Technical Assessment	The assessment of an Athlete's ability to perform the tasks and activities required to participate in the sport of Wheelchair Fencing.
Tracking Code	A temporary designation applied to a Sport Class that indicates that a Sport Class is subject to final determination after Observation Assessment has taken place.
Visual Impairment	An Impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain, which adversely affect an Athlete's vision.

Appendix One: Wheelchair Fencing Sport Classes and Eligibility Criteria

This Appendix is intended to outline the process by which an athlete will be classified and allocated to which Wheelchair Fencing Sport Class they are eligible. Please see Wheelchair Fencing Technical Rules and Regulations.

This Appendix details the Sport Classes that are to be allocated to Athletes with Physical Impairments who wish to compete in Wheelchair Fencing competitions.

It is divided into five parts:

1. **Introduction:** an overview of the classification process for athletes with Physical impairments.
2. **Methods of Assessment:** a description of the assessment techniques to be applied in the evaluation process for Athletes with Physical Impairments.
3. **Eligibility, Minimum Disability, and the allocation of Sport Class:** Identifies the types of impairments that are eligible for IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, as well as the Minimal Disability Criteria which provide a description for how severe an impairment must be in order to be eligible for Wheelchair Fencing.
4. **Sport Classes:** Describes the Sport Classes 1A, 1B,2,3 and 4.
5. **Assessments regarding adaptations in Competition**
 - Assessment of trunk stability: a description of the criteria used to measure trunk stability for the purpose of identifying the level of balance and recovery in accordance with the Wheelchair Fencing Technical Rules and Regulations.
 - Assessment of muscle power in the fencing arm: a description of the criteria used to measure muscle power in the fencing arm for Sport Class 1 for the purpose of identifying eventual use of strapping or other support required to hold the weapon in accordance with the Wheelchair Fencing Technical Rules and Regulations.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Prior to or as part of Physical and Technical Assessment, an Athlete must demonstrate the presence of an Eligible Impairment that meets the Minimum Disability Criteria set by Wheelchair Fencing (see Article 3). Wheelchair Fencing Classification is therefore based on a combination of Physical and Technical Assessment following which the Athlete is allocated a Sport Class.
- 1.2 The Classification panel will also assess trunk stability and muscle power in the fencing arm as identified above (See also section 4 and 5).
- 1.3 During the process of classification, a classification panel may identify circumstances in which an individual athlete may not be able to e.g. safely hold the weapon. In such cases, the classification panel will report to the technical officials who will conduct a full investigation in accordance with the Wheelchair Fencing Technical Rules and Regulations.

2 Methods of Assessment

- 2.1 Manual Muscle testing is conducted following Kendall, F.P., McCreary, E.K., Provance, P.G., McIntyre Rodgers, M., & Romani, W.A. (2005). *Muscles: Testing and function with posture and pain*. Baltimore, MD: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
- 2.2 The neurological and functional assessment of athletes with loss of muscle power will be conducted in accordance with the ASIA Classification (Maynard (1997): *International Standards for Neurological and Functional Classification of Spinal Cord Injury*).
- 2.3 Coordination-related impairments are evaluated by means of the Modified Ashworth Scale as defined in Bohannon, R. and Smith, M. (1987). "Interrater reliability of a modified Ashworth scale of muscle spasticity." *Physical Therapy* 67(2): 206.
- 2.4 Limitations in active and passive range of movement are assessed from anatomical reference points as identified in Berryman Reese, N., & Bandy, W.D. (2002). *Joint Range of Motion and Muscle Length Testing*. W.B. Saunders Company.
- 2.5 Loss of limb is assessed by means of measurement of the anatomical reference points as identified in Berryman Reese, N., & Bandy, W.D. (2002). *Joint Range of Motion and Muscle Length Testing*. W.B. Saunders Company.
- 2.6 Muscle power and range of movement are assessed over the functional range for the sport of Wheelchair Fencing as described in Table 1 below.
- 2.7 The results of the assessment must be recorded on the Athlete's Classification Card.
- 2.8 Details on assessment of trunk stability and muscle power in the fencing arm are provided under section 4 and 5 below.

Table 1: Functional range of joints in upper and lower limbs for the sport of Wheelchair Fencing:

Lower Limb			Upper Limb		
Joint	Movement	Range	Joint	Movement	Range
Hip	Flexion	0 - 90	Shoulder	Flexion	0 - 90
	Extension	0 - 10		Extension	0 - 20
	Abduction	0 - 20		Abduction	0 - 90
	Adduction	Anatomical Range		Adduction	0 - 90
Knee	Flexion	0 - 90		Horizontal adduction	0 - 120
	Extension	0 - 10		Endorotation	0 - 90
Ankle	Dorsiflexion	0 - 30	Exorotation	0 - 90	
	Plantarflexion	0 - 50	Elbow	Flexion	0 - 120
	Inversion	0 - 50		Extension	0 - 120
	Eversion	0 - 30		Supination	Anatomical Range
		Pronation		Anatomical Range	
			Wrist	Dorsiflexion	Anatomical Range
				Volarflexion	Anatomical Range
			Metacarpal II - V	Flexion	Anatomical Range
				Extension	Anatomical Range
			Metacarpal I (thumb)	Opposition	Anatomical Range
				Extension	Anatomical Range

2.9 The Classifiers may ask the Athlete to undergo a Technical Assessment. During the Technical Assessment the Athlete will be asked to perform or simulate one or more full fencing moves, which includes en garde positioning, lunge and recovery. Such assessment should typically take place during official training.

3 Eligibility, Minimum Disability, and the allocation of Sport Class

3.1 In accordance with the IPC Policy on Eligible Impairments in the Paralympic Movement (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 3.13), the Eligible Impairments for the sport of Wheelchair Fencing are the following:

- Hypertonia. e.g. due to injury. disease or conditions that involve damage of the central nervous system (b735)
- Ataxia. e.g. due to cerebral palsy or multiple sclerosis (b760)
- Athetosis, e.g. due to cerebral palsy or brain injury (b7650)
- Impaired muscle power, e.g. in muscles of one limb or the lower half of the body as a consequence of paraplegia, post poliomyelitis or spina bifida or other conditions (b730)
- Impaired passive range of movement (b7100-7102)
- limb deficiency, which describes the total or partial absence of bones and/or joints as a consequence of trauma, illness or congenital limb deficiency (s740, s750)

3.2 The following Impairment types are examples of non-eligible Impairments for the sport of Wheelchair Fencing:

- Mental functions (v140-189), including impairments of psychomotor control (b1470), quality of psychomotor functions (b1471), visuospatial perception (b1565), higher-level cognitive functions required for organization and planning movement (b1641); mental functions required for sequencing and coordinating complex, purposeful movements (b176)
- Hearing functions (b230-249)
- Pain (b280-0289)
- Joint instability (b715), including unstable shoulder joint and joint dislocation
- Muscle endurance functions (b740)
- Motor reflex functions (b750)
- Involuntary movement reaction functions (b755)
- Tics and mannerism (b7652)
- Stereotypes and motor perseveration (b7653)
- Cardiovascular functions (b410-429)
- Respiratory functions (b440-449)
- Functions related to metabolism and the endocrine system (b540-559)
- Short Stature (s730.343, s750.343, s760.349)
- Visual impairment (b201)

The Codes refer to the WHO manual on International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health.

3.3 Athletes, who are affected by an Eligible Impairment in combination with any of the non-eligible impairments listed in Article 3.2 of this Appendix, will be assessed against the extent of Activity Limitation resulting from the Eligible Impairment only.

3.4 In order to be eligible to compete in Wheelchair Fencing, the Athlete's Eligible Impairment as defined in Article 3.1 of this Appendix must meet one of the Minimum Disability Criteria defined in Table 2 below.

3.5 The Eligible Impairment is identified by means of the Medical Diagnostics Form and attached medical documentation that must be made available to the Classification Panel before Athlete Evaluation begins.

3.6 The Classification Panel will review the Medical Diagnostic Information and may conduct brief confirmatory diagnostic testing.

Table 2: Minimal Disability Criteria

Impairment of the Lower Limbs - Minimum Disability Criteria for Wheelchair Fencing To meet the Minimum Disability Criteria, an athlete must meet at least one of the below criteria 1.a - 1.d:		
1.a	Limb deficiency (s720-750)	<input type="checkbox"/> Amputation through the ankle (symes amputation), <u>or</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Dysmelia resulting in the absence of a full ankle joint
1.b	Impaired muscle power (b730)	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease of muscle strength of at least 20 points in one lower limb <u>or</u> at least 25 points in both lower limbs across ankle plantar- and dorsiflexion, inversion and eversion, knee flexion and extension, hip flexion and extension and hip adduction and abduction (max. 100 points in both lower limbs)
1.c	Impaired passive range of movement (b7100-7102)	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Ankylosis in one ankle joint <u>or</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired range of movement that results in a functional deficit in the lower limbs comparable to loss of muscle strength described with criterion 1.b.
1.d	Hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis (b735, b760, b7650)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of coordination that results in a functional deficit in the lower limbs restricting joint movement.

3.7 The presence of an impairment in absence of meeting the Minimal Disability Criteria does not question the existence of the impairment but results in the athlete being Not Eligible (NE) for the sport of Wheelchair Fencing.

4 Sport Classes

Athletes, who are eligible to compete are classified into the following Sport Classes. In the case of cerebral lesion or even in the case of doubt, it is necessary to complete the evaluation by observing the athlete whilst fencing. The involvement of the athletes themselves in the classifying procedure is most important, which in fact the signature of an athlete (or technician) provides within the scope of the classification commission.

Athletes, who meet the Minimum Disability Criteria defined in Article 3.4 of this Appendix, will be allocated one of the below four Sport Classes:

Athletes, who are eligible to compete, are classified into the following Sport Classes.

Class 1A

Athletes with no sitting balance who have a handicapped playing arm. No efficient elbow extension against gravity and no residual function of the hand which makes it necessary to fix the weapon with a bandage. Such a class is comparable to the old ISMGF 1A, or tetraplegics with spinal lesions level C5/C6.

Class 1B

Athletes without sitting balance and affected fencing arm. Functional elbow extension but no functional finger flexion. The weapon has to be fixed with a bandage. Comparable to complete tetraplegics level C7/C8 or higher incomplete lesion.

Class 2

Athletes with fair sitting balance and normal fencing arm, paraplegic type T1 - T9 (Functional tests 1 and 2 - not totalling more than 4 points) or incomplete tetraplegics with minimally affected fencing arm and good sitting balance.

Class 3

Athletes with good Sitting balance, without support of legs and normal fencing arm, e.g. paraplegics from T10 to L2 (Functional tests 1 and 2 positive - with a point score from 5 to 9). Subjects with double above the knee amputation with short stumps, or incomplete lesions above T10 or comparable disabilities can be included in this class, provided that the legs can help in maintaining the sitting balance.

Class 4

Athletes with good sitting balance with the support of lower limbs and normal fencing arm, e.g. with lesion below L4 or comparable disability (tests 3 and 4 positive with at least 5 points). In the case of cerebral lesion or in any disability where there is a degree of doubt, it is necessary to complete the evaluation by observing the athlete whilst fencing.

CATEGORIES

At official IWF competitions, the Sport Classes are joined for reducing the number of events and for increasing the number of participants per event.

There will be three Categories for each event:

- Category A: Sport Classes 3 and 4.
- Category B: Sport Class 2
- Category C: Sport Classes 1A and 1B

5 Functional Tests

Functional tests, to be effected in the wheelchair, consist of an evaluation of the extension and lateral inclination ability of the chest in different positions, with or without the use of a weapon. The tested movements repeat specific technical moves, e.g. lunge, i.e. a sudden and improvised lateral inclination of the trunk with the weapon in the hand, with simultaneous extension of the elbow, or as many fast return movements of the chest into its original position (or inclination from the opposite side) as for a "point of measurement" (in order to avoid hits by the opponent). A point score as follows is attributed during the tests:

0 Point - no function, movement cannot be put into effect

1 Point - very weak execution, minimum movement

2 Point - weak execution, fair movement

3 Point - normal execution

Test N° 1

consists of an evaluation of the extension of dorsal musculature: the subject, seated in the wheelchair, from a forward position of the trunk, tries to return to an upright position, contracting the dorsal muscles and maintaining the upper limbs retroflexed.

Test N° 2

is an evaluation of lateral balance with abducted upper limbs: the athlete has to move his own centre of gravity laterally to the right and left to the point where he would lose balance, thereby the lateral muscle function of the trunk and of the oblique abdominal can be evaluated as well as the lumbar muscle.

Test N° 3

(similar to test no 1) evaluates the extension of the trunk, but more specifically the lumbar muscles. The exercise is executed with the hands on the back of the neck, thus excluding both the inertial component of upper limb movement (violently retroflexive in test no 1) and the aid of the upper dorsal muscles of the trunk.

Test N° 4

Is similar to test no 2, but presents more difficulties, since it must be executed holding the weapon, the weight of which significantly reduces the possibility of lateral inclination of the trunk without losing balance.

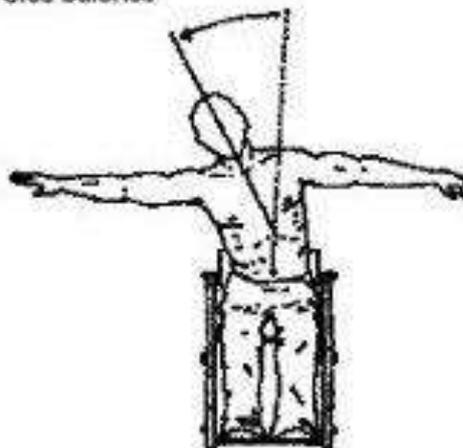
It is essential, during the execution of tests No 2 and 4 that the limb on the opposite side (on the side towards which the athlete does not move), does not hold either the wheelchair, nor the hand rim, nor the arm rest in order not to discredit the validity of the exercise.

Tests 1 - 4

Test1
Upper extension



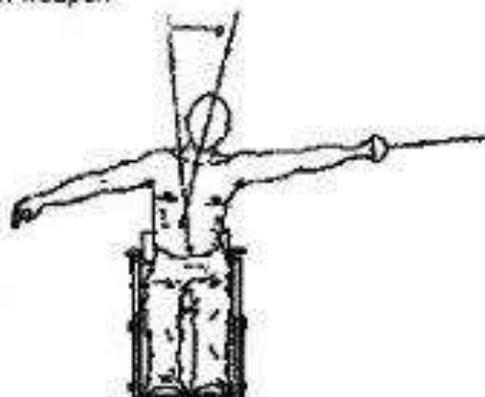
Test2
Side balance



Test3
Lumbar extension



Test4
Side balance
with weapon



Test N° 5

evaluates a trunk movement directed half the way between test 1 / 3 and 2 / 4 ; the exercise is executed holding the chair with the opposed limb. Fencers of class 2 normally cannot lean forward in this direction without helping themselves pushing the fencing arm against their leg

Test N°6

is similar to test no 1; evaluates the extension of the trunk, lumbar and dorsal muscles, the exercise is executed holding the position leaning forward at 45°

6 BENCH TEST

6.1 For an athlete affected by a spinal disability (paraplegia or polio) the muscle strength is evaluated by a point score from 0 - 5 as for IWAS actions following the bench test card (see Table 3 below)

Table 3: Bench Test Card

BENCH TEST						
Joint	Movement	Full R.O.M.	Muscle Test		R.O.M. Dysfunction	
			Right	Left	Right	Left
Shoulder	Flexion	170				
	Extension	40				
	Abduction	180				
	Adduction	40				
	Ext. Rotation	70				
	Int. Rotation	70				
Elbow	Flexion	150				
	Extension	10				
	Pronation	90				
	Supination	90				
Wrist	Flexion	50				
	Extension	60				
	Ulnar Flexion	40				
	Radial Flexion	30				
Fingers	Flexion	90				
	Extension	10				
	Abduction					
	Adduction					
Trunk	Flexion Upper					
	Flexion Lower					
	Extension Upper					
	Extension Lower					
	Lateral Flexion					
	Rotation					
Hip	Flexion	130				
	Extension	10				
	Abduction	40				
	Adduction	30				
Knee	Flexion	150				
	Extension	5				
Ankle	Plantar Flexion	50				

For athletes affected by spasticity, dystonia or athetosis, points are awarded for each controlled action as follows:

1 point non functional movement, motory co-ordination is minimal or non-existent.

2 points sequence of movement can only happen very slowly and with difficulty. If effected with rapid repetition, it will not exceed 25% of the normal range of movement.

3 points as above, up to 50% of full range of movement.

4 points slight un co-ordination of movements and / or not more than 75% of normal range of movement.

5 points normal motory co-ordination.

6.2 In the case of the injury being of orthopaedic origin, and therefore one is faced with problems of ankylosis or even a latent pathology in a reduction of range of movement, the point score (from 0 to 5) is expressed as follows:-

0 point no range of movement

1 points minimal range of movement

2 points 1/4 of normal range of movement

3 points 1/2 of normal range of movement

4 points 3/4 of normal range of movement

5 points normal range of movement

7 Assessments regarding adaptations in Competition

7.1 Besides allocating a Sport Class, the Classification Panel must also determine if, and to what extent, the Athlete may use any adaptive equipment in competition.

7.2 The Athlete may only use adaptive equipment, i.e strapping or individualised weapon handles for grip in those with impaired hand/arm function, if permitted by the Classification Panel and indicated on the Classification card. In case the Athlete would like to use further adaptive equipment, and the Athlete has a Sport Class Status Confirmed or Review with Fixed Review Date, he or she shall request for a re-assessment pursuant to the Medical Review procedures defined in these Rules.

7.3 Assessment of muscle power in the fencing arm

7.3.1 Besides identifying the Sport Class, the Classification Panel will also assess muscle power in the fencing arm for athletes in Sport Class 1 for the purpose of identifying if the Athlete may use an adapted weapon grip or strapping to hold the weapon in place.

7.3.2 The assessment of muscle power in the fencing arm includes:

- Assessment of Pronation/supination in the forearm
- Assessment of wrist flexion/extension
- Assessment of finger flexion
- Assessment of thumb and finger opposition